

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated August 23, 2005, the Examiner rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,593,274 (Carreno et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,795,130 (Suenaga et al.). Claims 14, 17 and 18 are allowed.

By the present response, Applicants have amended claim 16 to further clarify the invention. Claims 14 and 16-18 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carreno et al. in view of Suenaga et al. Applicants have amended this claim to make it dependent upon allowed claim 14. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

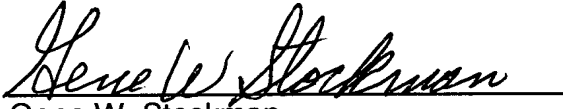
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 14 and 16-18 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 10/782,966

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIP-149-05).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.


Gene W. Stockman
Registration No. 21,021

GWS/sdb
(703) 684-1120